

SITUATION REPORT # 76

KILINCHCHI, MULLAITIVU, VAVUNIYA, MANNAR, TRINCOMALEE, AMPARA & BATTICALOA

24-31 May 2007

KILINCHCHI & MULLAITIVU DISTRICTS

Situation update

- The Omanthai FDL (Forward Defence Line), which was temporarily closed last week, was reopened on 30 May. The Omanthai and Uyilankulam crossing points will be officially open for traffic three days a week from 9 am to 5 p.m. (Monday, Wednesday and Friday).
- As part of the Bilateral Donor Group humanitarian field assessments, a team comprising the European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO) and Swiss Development Cooperation SDC) visited the Vanni 24-25 May.

Internally Displaced Persons

- Government Agent reports 78,493 individuals displaced in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu districts. The movement of IDPs has stabilized with some exceptions in areas of Manthai East and Thunukkai where families moving from Vavuniya North and South AGA divisions continue to arrive.

Sector Response

Shelter

- UNHCR reports that 8,249 temporary shelters out of a committed 12,528 shelters have been constructed by various agencies in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu district since August 2006 while the construction of 2,237 shelters is ongoing.
- FORUT has completed 32 emergency shelters out of a committed 100 in Thunukkai AGA division [Mullaitivu] and completed 26 temporary shelters out of a committed 50 shelters in Vavuniya North division. In the Iyankankulam village [Mullaitivu], FORUT is preparing the land to construct 50 temporary shelters.
- As of 30 May, Oxfam had completed 95 temporary shelters in the Poonakary and Karachchi divisions (Kilinochchi district) out of a planned 355 shelters while in Mullaitivu, Oxfam has completed 64 temporary shelters out of a planned 295 shelters.

Health

- Oxfam with DPDHS (Deputy Provincial Director of Health Services)-Mullaitivu organized a two-day discussion on Public Health Promotion for 43 staff from local organizations at the MOH Mullaitivu office on 25 and 26 May.

Watsan

- Oxfam renovated two bathing places at the Theravil IDP camp in Mullaitivu benefiting 56 displaced families.

Capacity Building

- On 25 May, Oxfam conducted a one day training for 41 persons on Community Based Disaster Management at the AGA office-Puthukkudiyiruppu (Mullaitivu).

Food

- WFP transported 110 MT of dhal on 30 May for its ongoing dry ration distribution in the districts.

Food Security

- On 27 May, FAO, through its implementing partner FORUT provided field training on Backyard Poultry Management for 148 recently displaced farming families, settled in the Thevipuram IDP location (Mullaitivu)

district). FAO in collaboration with the Government Agent of Mullaitivu and with the support of the Federation of the Fishermen Cooperative Societies, provided prawn net packages for 60 displaced fishers last week.

Mine Action

- NPA [Norwegian People Aid] the leading de-miner in Vanni updated their last week activities as follows.
- A NPA (Norwegian People Aid) MRE (Mine Risk Education) team conducted a Task Impact Assessment [TIA] of the Thadduvankoddy village located close to Elephant pass in Kilinochchi. According to the TIA, 25 families are living in Thadduvankoddy village now as opposed to 170 families in 2002.
- The NPA Explosive Ordinance Devices (EOD) Team is actively removing UXOs in an IDP camp in Mankulam area (more than 80 UXOs).
- The NPA MRE team is active in the Vadamarachchi east area which is not accessible to other INGOs and the UN.

NFRI

- 124 IDP families from the 9th mile post Akkarayan settlement [Kilinochchi] were given camp cleaning items by Oxfam.

Jaffna District

Food Security

- FAO handed over fumigating agents to the Department of Animal Production and Health to fumigate the Atchuvely Poultry Hatchery before loading the eggs.
- FAO procured three solar panels to activate refrigerators for the Dept. of Animal Production & Health, Jaffna which is presently being stored in a Colombo warehouse and will be delivered once CGES clearance is received.
- FAO, in collaboration with the Dept. of Animal Production & Health and supported by World Vision is presently restocking for their backyard poultry programme.
- FAO handed over veterinary supplies (drugs, mineral mixtures and vaccines) to the Department of Animal Production & Health in Jaffna to support 10,000 farm animals.

VAVUNIYA AND MANNAR DISTRICTS

Situation update

- Situation remains tense.
- GA office reports 4,452 families (15,986 individuals) displaced in Mannar district and 2,329 families (8,190 persons) displaced in Vavuniya district.

Sector Response

NFRI

- The UNHCR – Mannar office distributed 13 NFRI packages to IDPs, returnees from India and resettled families.

Watsan

- UNICEF initiated a participatory WATSAN survey in 88 school in Vavuniya south Education Zone.
- ICRC cleaned four wells at the Periyamadu IDP location in Manthai west (Mannar district).

Protection

- UNHCR protection team assessed the situation of recent IDP families displaced from Salambeikulam (Vavuniya district) to Anudharapura, found that they are in general well and instructed its partner the Human Rights Commission (HRC) to do the follow up and registration.
- The Periyamadu joint assessment found that many younger school children are not being sent to school in fear of aerial attacks as parents believe that younger children are unable to reach safe places in the uncleared areas of Manthai West and Madhu DS division. The assessment also found several separated children living with their relatives in Manthai West division as a result of inability to access and cross the FDL. No statistics were collected

due to time constraints on unaccompanied minors/children identified among the IDP community though there were no reported cases.

- The IDPs in Manthai West are staying in temporary shelters and common buildings. A lack privacy is identified.
- UNICEF with FORUT RDF conducted a training on the child rights reporting mechanism for community leaders and children's club members for 60 persons in Vavuniya district.
- UNICEF with the partnership of SHADE provided psycho-social support to families at the Poonthoddam welfare center in Vavuniya.
- UNHCR and HRC conducted a human rights awareness program for selected IDPs and human rights animators in the Poonthoddam, Sithamparapuram welfare centres and Manic farm relocation village (Vavuniya district).
- UNHCR donated a three wheeler to SLRC Chedikkulam office to transport emergency cases to Chedikkulam hospital.
- The Danish Refugee Council conducted a child rights awareness program for 30 persons in Sankarapuram (Chedikkulam DS division).
- The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) renovated two child friendly spaces at the Poonthoddam Welfare Centre.
- Save the Children in Sri Lanka (SCiSL) provided two recreation kits to displaced children in Thonikkal GN division.
- FORUT conducted a two-day Alcohol and Drug Reduction program for 30 community workers in Vavuniya district.

Livelihood

- Oxfam GB donated a chilling plant to the Livestock Breeders Cooperative Society in Vavuniya district.

Health and Nutrition

- MOH Mannar with UNICEF support conducted 20 outreach clinics to IDPs in the Madhu, Murunkan and Adampan areas of Mannar district.
- UNICEF gave 197 expectant mother kits to the Adampan MOH office in Manthai West.
- UNICEF completed the renovation of five Gramodaya health centers in Santhasolai, Allakala, Pandarikkulam, Chedikkulam, Rajendrakulam (Vavuniya district).

Education

- UNICEF distributed 650 learning kits to displaced children at the Periyamadu site and 20 blackboards, 25 tarpaulin sheets to the Periyamadu school.
- UNICEF issued sports items such as discs and netballs to the Mannar education Department to distribute to schools.
- FORUT opened a playground at the Arivithoddam Sivanantha Vidiyalayam school in Manic farm for 550 children.
- UNICEF -Vavuniya office sent 3,665 learning kits to Kilinochchi to be used in the uncleared areas of Mannar and Vavuniya district.
- 50 youth who completed vocational courses received 8,000 rupees worth of tool kits each from the World University Service of Canada (WUSC).
- SCiSL distributed 20 educational kits to displaced children in Awaranthulawa GN division (Vavuniya).

Food

- WFP dry rations are being distributed through Multi-Purpose Cooperative Societies (MPCS). However, some families have yet to receive the dry rations due to lack of documentation or the procedural requirements of the GS/DS in Manthai West division. WFP's dry rations for 3,444 families have reached Madhu and Manthai West division.
- Apart from the IDP food distribution, WFP School feeding and Mother & Child nutrition programmes are ongoing in Manthai West. Under the Mother and Child programme, CSB (Corn Soy Blend) is being distributed in MOH clinics for lactating, pregnant mothers and children under age five. School children are being fed under the School Feeding program.

- World Vision distributed dry food (Rice, Wheat flour, Sugar & Lentils) for one month to 35 families who were displaced from Madhu division to the Poonthoddam welfare center.
- WFP transported 3.15MT of rice, 0.45 MT of dhal, 0.3 MT of sugar and 0.14 MT vegetable oil to Vavuniya district during the reporting period.
- DRC distributed supplementary food to 784 recent IDP families in Periyamadu and surrounding areas in Manthai west division.

Agriculture and Food Security

- FAO in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and World Vision conducted and completed the second stage of training on Improved Agricultural techniques for 300 beneficiaries in nine villages of Chedikkulam DS division, and 50 beneficiaries in one village of Vavuniya North DS division from 11 to 19 May.

Shelter

- NRC renovated two shelters at the Poonthoddam Welfare Centre to accommodate 25 newly displaced families in Vavuniya district. NRC renovated 17 halls at the Sithamparapuram Welfare Centre in Vavuniya district where 123 families reside.
- UNHCR and RDF completed jungle clearing and the plotting of land at the Kankankulam relocation areas in Chedikkulam DS division in Vavuniya district where 60 long term families will be relocated.
- NRC fixed 186 doors on 62 permanent houses constructed by them at the Puthiyasinnakulam village (Vavuniya).

TRINCOMALEE DISTRICT

Situation Update

- Despite the general tension Trincomalee has been relatively quite over the reporting period. Access continues to be a problem in areas such as Kanguveli in Southern Muttur and Pulmoddai.

Internally Displaced Persons

- IDP numbers for the district remain stable but the spontaneous arrivals at the Kiliveddy Transit Sites have pushed the numbers to 4,223 individuals (1251 families) as of 29 May according to Muttur DS.
- A number of agencies have raised concern with authorities that IDPs should not be encouraged to return to areas where there is still a risk from mines and UXOs.

Food

- It was reported at this week's interagency meeting that food entitlements were not delivered to IDPs at St Anthony's Church and the Methodist Church in Muttur town.

Shelter

- A number of NGOs have expressed their willingness this week to build temporary shelters on the land of the host families where some 60 IDP families are taking shelter in Thampalakamam.

NFRI

- SCiSL distributed 400 pairs of slippers to 400 children at the Paddithidal transit site last week. SCiSL also handed over to UNHCR 280 plastic buckets, 218 bed sheets, 790 sarongs and saris, and 395 shirts for a common pack to be distributed to returnee families.

Education

- PIN has completed its first three-month pilot training of pre-school teachers and is preparing the second round.

WatSan

- Oxfam is still waiting for the electricity connection to the water treatment plant in Kiliveddy.

- At a number of sectoral meetings this week, UNICEF announced that in reference to the return process to Ralkuly and Verugal they will support the population only when those IDPs actually return to their respective villages.
- CARE International has committed to support PS Seruvila in the preparation of a dumping site for human waste from the Kiliveddy transit sites.

Health

- At an operational meeting at the Kiliveddy Hospital Co-Chaired by the MOH Muttur and the DPDHS concern was again expressed about the inadequacies at the Kiliveddy transit Sites. The shelter and Watsan facilities are designed for short term occupancy (transit) and there are potential health implications.
- IMC medical mobiles clinics are in progress at LB3, Kanguveli, Irrudayapuram and support is also provided to Kiliveddy hospital.
- In Kiliveddy transit sites seven (7) dysentery cases were reported last week but no further cases have been reported since. Three (3) viral hepatitis have also been reported.

Agriculture and Food Security

- FAO conducted two nutrition training classes for 60 school children in Aligar Maha Vidyalayam in Kinniya and Aathikoneswara Maha Vidyalayam in Thampalakamam.
- FAO handed over Nutrition Training Program Equipment and utensils to the District Agriculture Training Centre in Trincomalee, to be used for demonstration purposes during training sessions.

BATTICALOA DISTRICT

Situation update

- Situation remains tense.
- Missions from both the Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)/USAID and the Swedish Embassy visited the district between May 28– 30, and jointly with UN agencies, visited several villages in Vellavelly and Vaharai divisions. The missions also visited IDP camps in Arayampathy, Manmunai North and Chenkalady divisions, and had an opportunity to discuss a range of issues with returnees and IDPs, including their return home and the main needs of camp residents.

Internally Displaced Persons

- According to the 28 May Government statistics, the total registered IDP population in the District is 28,883 families (109,710 individuals).
- Resettlement to Vellavelly (Poraitivu Pattu) DS Division in Batticaloa West is complete with 8,623 families (27,606 individuals) returning to their homes in the division. Inter-agency monitoring teams continue to monitor the return process. UN agencies conducted a number of missions to return locations in Vellavelly during the week of 24 May in order to assess the conditions in places of return and the immediate protection and assistance needs of returnees.
- Resettlement to Paddipalai (Manmunai South West) is scheduled to begin on 01 June and continue until 6 June. UNHCR and its protection partners will continue to monitor the returns and report directly to the government on any problems regarding voluntariness.

Sector Response

Shelter

- WatSan and Shelter agencies are working together with Divisional Secretaries to prepare for the physical closure and regrouping of IDP camp sites in line with the Government's proposed return plans while still ensuring the best and safest conditions for the displaced. A proposed list of sites to be maintained and upgraded for longer-term IDPs has been shared with the Government Agent, and WatSan and Shelter agencies are working in close collaboration with local government officials, camp managers and IDPs living in camps to facilitate the acceptance of camp consolidation and site decommissioning plans. The camp consolidation and site

decommissioning process is an important part of the process of ensuring that the protection and assistance needs of those who cannot return will continue to be met while all efforts are made to pursue durable solutions for them.

- ZOA constructed shelters for 600 families in Vedarkudiyiruppu 2 IDP camp in Arayampathy division and 414 shelters were constructed in Koralkerny camp in Chenkalady division.
- In Puthukudiruppu in Arayampathy division, 280 shelters are completed out of a planned 534 shelters. To date 73 families are staying in these completed shelters.
- In Vellavelly division, UNHCR has begun distributing emergency shelter assistance (tarpaulins) to a number of returnee families whose homes have been damaged until a more detailed assessment of shelter needs can be conducted and shelter kits and/or other forms of shelter assistance can be provided.

Food

- Food is still a major need in resettled villages in Vaharai and Vellavelly. However, the Government has plans to provide one month's dry ration to IDPs resettled in the West.
- Archenova distributed complementary food to 137 families for 2 weeks in Kokkuvil III camp in Manmunai North division.

Wat/San

- A plan for decommissioning is being developed for WatSan facilities in camps. Agencies are already collaborating on the decommission of semi-permanent toilets. As camps are being consolidated, WatSan agencies are also looking if site water source development is possible to eliminate bowsering taking place.
- UNICEF and the Water Board visited Vaharai and discussed plans for water supply in the long term development programme and constraints for access to the area. After relocation, around 1,300 wells have been cleaned by the Pradeshiya Saba, however bowsering is still taking place. Most families are using their own wells for drinking water and the quality appears to be good. However, some issues remain with low water levels from the dry season and lack of water sources in some villages. Sanitary conditions are poor in many areas, and there are few commitments to improve the situation in the area. This issue will continue to be addressed at coordination forums in the district.
- To address some of the water needs in resettlement areas, the Water Board plans to re-instigate a three tier plan for rural water supply through UNICEF funding.
- This week, Oxfam GB and partners constructed 16 tube wells, 5 temporary toilets, and 12 semi permanent toilets, construction of 10 platforms and screening of 1 latrine set in the district.
- Archenova installed 10 latrine type tube wells in Manmunai North, Kaluwanchikudy and Arayampathy divisions.
- Merlin assessed the WatSan needs in 10 clinics in the Batticaloa and Vaharai areas. Contracts were prepared for two clinics.
- OXFAM GB, ArcheNova/ UNICEF, World Vision, ZOA, Solidarities/UNICEF bowsered over 800,000 liters of water per day to various sites in the district.

NFRI/ Hygiene Kit:

- On 24 May, Oxfam GB distributed 3,035 soap to IDP camps in Kaluwanchikudy division and Parangiyamadu in Kiran division and 45 food covers to the Parangiyamadu camp while on 29 May, Oxfam GB distributed 41 hygiene kits in Vedarkudiyiruppu camp in Arayampathy division.
- On 24 May, IOM distributed 23 kitchen utensil kits to IDPs with host families in Arayampathy and Manmunai North divisions.
- On 25 May, Save the Children distributed a total of 211 family NFRI kits to IDPs with host families in Manmunai North

Protection, Psychosocial & Camp Management:

- NRC conducted two Camp Management on-site trainings for 53 IDP committees' representatives between 23 - 26 May in Chenkalady and Manmunai North divisions.

- On 25 May, IOM distributed 07 energy lights, 01 wire roll (100m), 03 holders and 20 flash lights with batteries to Kalliyankady Food Store I & II IDP centres and 70 flash lights with batteries at Palameanmadu-1 welfare centre. 26 flash lights with batteries distributed in Puthukudiyiruppu play ground welfare centre on 24 May.
- On 24 May, 23 Fire extinguishers installed by IOM in 11 IDP sites in Manmunai North division. 02 sessions of fire drill and safety trainings conducted with the assistance of external trainers in 2 camps in Manmunai North division, a total of 253 persons benefited from this event.
- Save the Children supported a Disaster Risk Reduction Awareness training on the 24 May for 125 children at Kokkuvil and Mammagam IDP camps in Manmunai North division.

Education

- The number of schools closed in places of origin is now 32 as 16 schools opened in Vellavelly on 28 May. Three schools remain closed as they are still used as IDP camps.
- On 24 May, a total of 1,508 uniform materials were distributed by Save the Children to 3 schools in Batticaloa zone for the children displaced from Paddiruppu zone. 650 Early Childhood Educational kits and 30 Pre School teachers' kits have been distributed by Save the Children to 11 emergency early childhood care and development centers in Kaluwanchikudy and Manmunai North divisions.
- Save the Children handed over 5 temporary structures to school authorities in the Batticaloa zone and Paddiruppu zones to accommodate displaced children.
- 10 School in a Box and 245 lower primary kits were delivered by UNICEF to 6 schools in Batticaloa education zone.

Health & Hygiene

- On 28 May, a sports event was conducted by Sarvodaya for IDPs in the Savukkady IDP camp in Chenkalady division.
- Oxfam GB's 40 slogans with health message on water use, latrine use, hand washing and solid waste management were placed in 2 IDP camps in Arayampathy and 2 camps in Kaluwanchikudy divisions.
- ArchenoVa's follow up hygiene promotion programme have been carried out in the IDP camps of Kokkuvil Annex, Educated Girls Farm and Saratha Vidyalam in Manmunai North division.
- ZOA's health and hygiene promotion activities were held at four IDP camps in Kaluwanchikudy division for 626 families.
- In conjunction with Batticaloa Base Hospital, IOM is conducting a mobile Medical Clinic service which will cover Manmunai North division (approx 15 camps). It will be conducted for 24 days starting from 23 May which will include all established welfare centres in the district.
- Merlin has deployed two Mobile Medical Clinics in Arayampathy and Manmunai North division where over 900 persons received medical attention.
- Monitoring of infection control practices is been conducted by Merlin at the Kaluwanchikudy base hospital and Periya Kallar district hospital in Kaluwanchikudy division.
- Merlin's dental care programme was held in 2 schools in Chenkaldy division. 342 students were screened and there were 1610 indirect beneficiaries.
- 28-30 May, Merlin conducted hygiene awareness programme on safe drinking water, toilet use and hand washing in 2 schools in Kaluwanchikudy, 4 schools in Valachchenai and 4 schools in Arayampathy divisions. Merlin provided 60 packets of Oral Dehydration Solution to camps in the district with watery diarrhea.

Food Security & Livelihood

- The 2nd round of skill training by Oxfam GB on agriculture was completed by the Agrarian Service in Kiran division where 140 members from displaced and host families participated.
- On 26 May, Oxfam GB/ Sarvodaya distributed carpentry, masonry tools for the displaced carpenters and masons in Iyankerny and Savukkady IDP camps in Chenkalady division where 17 carpenters and 18 masons received electrical and manual tools.
- On 25 May, Oxfam GB / Sarvodaya conducted cash grant activity for the IDPs in Savukkady camp in Chenkalady division for small businesses. 5 IDPs received 10,000 rupees each for small businesses.

- FAO provided fruit trees and tools to 10 selected schools in 4 divisions in the district. FAO held 6 Nutrition Awareness Exhibitions in 6 different schools in 4 divisions for over 800 school children, in order to promote nutrition awareness among children.

Transport

- During the reporting period, IOM has provided 18 trucks to UNICEF, DSs, Oxfam Australia and Save the Children to transport food, shelter material, WatSan materials, education kits, NFRI and IDPs.

AMPARA DISTRICT

Situation Update

- The situation remains tense.

Internally Displace Persons

- According to UNHCR there are 11,786 persons (2,981 families) displaced in the district as of 23 May.
- UNHCR reports that IDPs are voluntarily moving back to their place of origin in Batticaloa however the returns are more sporadic than organized and number of returnees and remaining IDPs need to be verified. UNHCR is monitoring the IDP movement and resettlement process from Ampara to Batticaloa west.

Sector Response

Food

- WFP received from the Ministry of Nation Building & Estate Infrastructure Development the approval to distribute dry rations to 3,012 IDP families (11,702 individuals) who are living in welfare centres as well as with host families for the month of May. For May, the government decided not to consider IDPs with host families for food assistance.

NFRI

- Save the Children distributed family Kits to 209 IDP women in Alayadivembu.

Shelter/Care and Maintenance

- NRC- Care & Maintenance and Islamic relief plan to wind down activities in the district. Since Islamic relief is in the process of scaling down its project activities, it has negotiated with IOM to hand over all shelter and other housing material from the Islamic relief warehouse.

Psychosocial

- IMC supported the DPDHS to open a Community Mental Health Resource Center at the Palamunai hospital.
- SewaLanka opened a Community Resource Centre in Thirukkivil.

Education

- UNICEF reports that Temporary schools built after the tsunami are now undergoing repairs to ensure that they remain viable pending the completion of permanent school facilities.
- Save the Children distributed school kits to 241 IDP children in Alayadivembu.

Health

- CAM will wind up its medical programs (mobile clinics, hygiene promotions) in Thirukkivil and Navithanveli by the end of June 2007.

Agriculture & Food Security

- FAO conducted a Home Gardening training programme in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture for 22 beneficiaries in Pandiruppu

- FAO conducted training in 'Nutrition and Food Processing' in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture for 109 beneficiaries in Thambuluvil, Periyaneelavanai, Alayadivembu and Nintavur villages of Ampara.
- FAO conducted a training programme on the 'Importance of Nutrition for children' for 30 participants in Zahira College Kalmunai